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\*Admitted only in Maryland  
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\*Practice Limited to  
Federal Agencies

December 4, 2006

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Commissioner for Patents  
PO Box 1450  
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Mail Stop AF  
Art Unit: 1635  
Examiner: Schnizer, R.A.  
Confirmation No.: 3181

Re: U.S. Utility Patent Application  
Application No. 10/725,015; Filed: December 2, 2003  
For: **Method for Producing Sterile Polynucleotide Based Medicaments**  
Inventors: GEALL *et al.*  
Our Ref: 1530.0610001/EKS/J-H

Sir:

Transmitted herewith for appropriate action are the following documents:

1. Amendment and Reply Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116; and
2. One (1) return postcard.

It is respectfully requested that the attached postcard be stamped with the date of filing of these documents, and that it be returned to our courier.

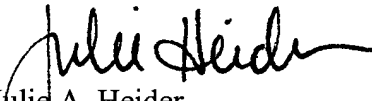
In the event that extensions of time are necessary to prevent abandonment of this patent application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned.

Commissioner for Patents  
December 4, 2006  
Page 2

The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is hereby authorized to charge any fee deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 19-0036.

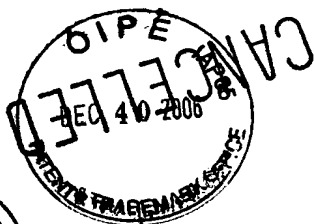
Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.

  
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EKS/J-H/awt  
Enclosures

614712\_1.DOC



**Amendment Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116  
Expedited Procedure – Art Unit 1635**

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

GEALL *et al.*

Appl. No.: 10/725,015

Filed: December 2, 2003

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Examiner: Schnizer, R. A.

Atty. Docket: 1530.0610001/EKS/J-H

**Amendment and Reply Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116**

***Mail Stop AF***

Commissioner for Patents  
PO Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In reply to the Office Action dated **September 6, 2006**, (PTO Prosecution File Wrapper Paper No. 20060821), Applicants submit the following Amendment and Remarks.

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks and Arguments** begin on page 6 of this paper.

It is not believed that extensions of time or fees for net addition of claims are required beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. However, if additional extensions of time are necessary to prevent abandonment of this application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a), and any fees required therefor (including fees for net addition of claims) are hereby authorized to be charged to our Deposit Account No. 19-0036.